Procurement of rough diamonds

3847. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is attempting to buy rough diamonds directly from the mining countries in an effort to improve its competitiveness; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's plans in this endeavour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir. The Government are encouraging the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) in their efforts to procure rough diamond supplies directly from the diamond mining countries like Russia, Canada etc. A twelve member diamond and jewellery delegation sponsored by GJEPC visited Canada from 6th to 10th November, 2000, *inter alia,* with the objective to explore the possibilities of direct procurement of rough diamonds from Canada. Another delegation comprising representatives of Department of Commerce, MMTC and GJEPC visited Russia from 13th to 18th December, 2000. Another delegation of representatives of GJEPC visited Societe Minere de Bakwanga (MIBA) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, from 7th to 13 th December, 2000 to explore the possibility of direct procurement of rough diamonds from them. As regards the direct supply of rough diamonds from Russia, a contract valued at US $ 4.46 million was signed during the visit of the Indian delegation. However, the sale of the rough diamonds from Russia has not yet materialised for want of necessary export licence with the concerned Russian agency to export rough diamonds directly to India. As regards supply from the Democratic Republic of Congo, though the Indian delegation gave its tender bids, they did not succeed in winning the tender on price considerations.

Study on FDI inflow

3848. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the initiative of the Prime Minister a global constituency firm has prepared a road map for stepping up Foreign Direct Investment and submitted its report entitled "Achieving a Quantum Leap in India's FDI" to the Minister of External Affairs on the 3rd August, 2001 as reported in the Times of India dated the 4th August, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of major recommendations made in the report and the